



ADUKANAIŠA

ADUKANAIŠA (*a-du-u-k-n-i-š-*), name of the first month (March-April) of the Old Persian calendar (see Kent, *Old Persian*, p. 161a), equivalent to Akkadian Nisannu and Elamite Zikli (several attestations in the Persepolis tablets; see R. T. Hallock, *Persepolis Fortification Tablets*, Chicago, 1969, pp. 74, 774b). The Old Persian name, whose reading cannot be assured until an undisputed and fully convincing etymological interpretation is found, occurs once in DB II.69. But it is attested frequently in the Persepolis tablets in the Elamite rendering Hadukannaš, with numerous variants (*ibid.*, p. 686), which lead to Old Persian forms in °na, °nya, °niš. As to etymology, one proposal (e.g., Kent, *Old Persian*, p. 167b; and W. Hinz, *Neue Wege im Altpersischen*, Wiesbaden, 1973, pp. 65f.) combines Iranian *adu- (Avestan *ađu-*) “watercourse, canal” (with or without *vridhhi*: *ā-* or *ǎ-*) with the root *kan-* “dig” (hence “[month of] *qanāt*-cleaning” (see [Qanāt](#)); this can be supported by a semantic parallel in Sumerian). A competing etymology (proposed by R. E. Emmerick, *Transactions of the Philological Society* 1966 [1967], p. 4) joins Iranian **ādu-* “grain” (cf. Avestan *āđu-*, Buddhist Sogdian *δwk-*) with the homonymous root *kan-* “throw, sow” (hence “[month of] grain-sowing”). Both interpretations are mere root etymologies, that suffer from the morphological aspect, so that they can not be taken as convincing in every respect.



BIBLIOGRAPHY

Given in the text.